



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

For Meeting Date: November 10, 2010

Agenda Item No. 8: Presentation of 2010 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Five Surface Mining Operations for Acceptance Consideration by the State Mining and Geology Board.

INTRODUCTION: The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) serves as the lead agency under SMARA for forty-two (42) individual surface mining operations, including operations located in two counties (El Dorado County and Yuba County), nine (9) San Francisco Bay marine dredging operations, and seven (7) cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for five (5) surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The SMGB has assumed certain administrative obligations and responsibilities as the SMARA lead agency for the County of El Dorado and the County of Yuba, and several cities within California. Public Resources Code Section 2774(b) states:

"The lead agency shall conduct an inspection of a surface mining operation within six months of receipt by the lead agency of the surface mining operation's report submitted pursuant to Section 2207, solely to determine whether the surface mining operation is in compliance with this chapter. In no event shall a lead agency inspect a surface mining operation less than once in any calendar year. The lead agency may cause an inspection to be conducted by a state-registered geologist, state-registered civil engineer, state-licensed landscape architect, or state-registered forester, who is experienced in land reclamation and who has not been employed by a surface mining operation within the jurisdiction of the lead agency in any capacity during the previous 12 months. All inspections shall be conducted using a form developed by the department and approved by the board. The operator shall be solely responsible for the reasonable cost of the inspection. The lead agency shall notify the director within 30 days of the date of completion of the inspection that the inspection has been conducted. The notice shall contain a statement regarding the surface mining operation's compliance with this chapter, shall include a copy of the completed inspection form, and shall specify which aspects of the surface mining operations, if any, are inconsistent with this chapter. If the surface mining operation has a review of its reclamation plan, financial assurances, or an interim management plan pending under subdivision (b), (c), (d), or (h) of Section 2770, or an appeal pending before the board or lead agency governing body under subdivision (e) or (h) of Section 2770, the notice shall so indicate.

The lead agency shall forward to the operator a copy of the notice, a copy of the completed inspection form, and any supporting documentation, including, but not limited to, any inspection report prepared by the geologist, civil engineer, landscape architect, or forester."



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MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:

The 2010 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's November 10, 2010, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration by the SMGB are as follows:

- Bear Creek Aggregates (CA Mine ID #91-09-0001), County of El Dorado.
- Cool Cave Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0005), County of El Dorado.
- Parks Bar Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0013), County of Yuba.
- Blue Point Clark Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0015), County of Yuba.
- Blue Point Sand & Gravel Mine (CA Mine ID #91-58-0021), County of Yuba.

A summary of violations, corrective measures and recommendations per surface mining operation is presented below.

Bear Creek Aggregates (CA Mine ID #91-09-0001), County of El Dorado:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on October 29, 2010.

It is recommended that the operator submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per CCR Section 3804(c).

Cool Cave Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0005), County of El Dorado:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on October 29, 2010.

One corrective measure is noted regarding the requirement that the operator submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c).

Parks Bar Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0013), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on October 26, 2010.

It is recommended that monitoring data for the existing ground cracks on the upper western overburden placement area be summarized and presented to the SMGB annually with the operator's mining operation annual report each July 1. Additionally, the operator should immediately report any slope movement exceeding 0.5 inches to the SMGB.

Blue Point Clark Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0015), County of Yuba:

One violation is noted as over two years have passed since a revised financial assurance cost estimate has been submitted to the SMGB for review and approval as required per CCR Section 3804(c).

It is recommended that the operator conduct comparative testing of clipped grass weights from the quarry site and nearby unimpacted grassland during the spring of 2011 in order to determine if revegetation performance standards as stated in the 2005 Closure and Reclamation Plan have been achieved.

Blue Point Sand & Gravel Mine (CA Mine ID #91-58-0021), County of Yuba:

One violation is noted as over two years have passed since a revised financial assurance cost estimate has been submitted to the SMGB for review and approval as required per CCR Section 3804(c).

One corrective measure is noted regarding failed shrub seedling plantings at the site. It is recommended that the required shrub seedlings be re-planted per the approved 2005 Reclamation Plan, or a revised revegetation plan be submitted for SMGB review and approval consideration.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the five 2010 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings contained therein to each respective mine operator and their local SMARA lead agency.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

To accept five 2010 SMARA surface mine inspection reports:

Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the five 2010 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings to the respective local lead agencies and each mine operator. These surface mining operations are Bear Creek Aggregates, Cool Cave Quarry, Parks Bar Quarry, Blue Point Clark and Blue Point Sand & Gravel Mine.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer